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Mysuru ramps up health infrastructure

- **ESI Hospital, KSOU Extension Centre at Mandakalli to be new COVID Care facilities**
- **Plans afoot for another Testing Lab at Government Ayurveda and Panchakarma Hospital**
- **MP Pratap Simha inspects newly-built Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Maternity Hospital**

Mysuru, June 27 (RK&BCT)- Mysuru is ramping up its COVID-19 testing and treatment facilities following rapid rise in infected persons. The need for establishing separate facilities has arisen now as the designated COVID-19 Hospital that has efficiently treated and cured many patients so far may not be sufficient in case the infected cases spiral up in the coming days.

Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar has said that if there is an explosion of positive cases like in Bengaluru where every day over 100 to 200 cases are being reported, the District Administration is ready with alternative testing and treatment facility.

In March itself, the new ESI Hospital on KRS Road and the vacant Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) Extension Centre near Mysore Airport at Mandakalli had been identified.

100 beds can be set up at ESI Hospital and over 500 beds can be set up at KSOU Centre.

Beds on rent

The DC said that beds can be rented out to accommodate patients at KSOU Centre and the Nirmithi Kendra has been asked to make structural modification of the building interiors to set up more wards, bathrooms, isolation wards and also toilets. People who have mild COVID symptoms and those not in need of ventilators can be admitted at KSOU Centre, he revealed.

The KSOU Centre is in a secluded place and is ideal for an isolation facility. Also, it is on the outskirts of the city. As a back-up, Morarji Desai Residential Schools too will be cleaned and readied in case there are hundreds of cases, the Deputy Commissioner added.

(See HEALTH on page 6)

Floral tributes mark Kempegowda Jayanti in city

The Mysuru District Administration and Kannada & Culture Department had organised Nadaprabhu Kempegowda's 511th Jayanti celebrations at Kalamandira premises this morning by offering floral tributes to a portrait of the Founder of Bengaluru. MLAs G.T. Devegowda and L. Nagendra, MP Pratap Simha, MCC Additional Commissioner N.M. Shashikumar, Kannada and Culture Department Assistant Director H. Chennappa, Additional DC B.R. Poornima, Mysuru-Chamarajanagar Vokkaligara Sangha President Manju and others were present. *[See also page 6]*

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Saturday 27th June 2020

Government to sell leased lands to lessees at prevailing market rates

Bengaluru, June 27- In a significant decision, the State Government on Thursday decided to sell the lands which it has leased out, to the lessees itself at the prevailing market rates.

Addressing presspersons after the Cabinet meeting here on Thursday, Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said that the Government has decided not to renew leased Government lands which have been given to private individuals, Associations, Trusts and organisations but instead sell them on a permanent basis to the lessees at the prevailing market rates.

Pointing out that only those lessees who have been using the land solely for the granted purpose will be considered for selling of the land, Madhuswamy clarified that, however, Clubs, Recreation Clubs and such other establishments will not be brought under this initiative.

Stating that only educational institutions, Industries, Religious, Medical, Farming organisations and the like, which have been using the leased lands only for the purpose they had sought, will be given permanent ownership of the land upon payment of the value specified by the Government, the Minister said this decision will put an end to the periodical or yearly renewal of leased lands.

Madhuswamy further said that all unutilised lease lands and other leased lands, which are found to be utilised for purposes other than those sought by the lessees, will be taken back by the Government.

He also said that a Bill for reduction of salaries up to 30 percent for MLAs and Ministers in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic will be introduced in the next session. Also, Rs.10,000 crore has been set aside for completion of the pending 9.74 lakh houses under various Housing Projects, he added.

Industries to get 3-year clearance

In another major Cabinet decision, Industries will be given three years' time during which they can seek clearances from all other Departments.

Announcing this after the Cabinet meeting, Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar said that industrialists looking to set up ventures in Karnataka can commence work immediately after their proposals are approved by the Government, without having to wait for any other clearances.

Calling the decision as a historic move, Shettar said the Government will amend the Karnataka Industrial Facilitation Act, 2002, for this.

Continuing, Shettar said that the Cabinet also decided to completely waive off Stamp Duty and Registration fees for the manufacture and sale of electric vehicles.

Pointing out that the Government sought to promote sale and manufacture of electric vehicles through this move, he said that this decision is in line with the Karnataka Electric Vehicles and Energy Storage Policy, 2017. The country would see a rise in electric vehicle use and production in the next few years and we are trying to harness this opportunity, he added.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Motorists in Munnar generally agree that nothing is scarier than running into a belligerent wild elephant on a deserted road at night – a recurring nightmare that has spawned countless hair-raising tales, some as tall as the pachyderms themselves! A small bonfire is an effective deterrent to keep away elephants or any wild animal for that matter. Once while camping overnight with friends outside Munnar, we found a few wild elephants in the vicinity. Unperturbed, our elderly tribal guide promptly lit a fire around which we hit the sack. The jumbos never bothered us that night — though the guide's sonorous snoring did!

— George N. Netto in Deccan Herald

NEWS SPARKLERS

Bizarre traditional board shoe racing

Beijing: Board shoe racing is the traditional sport of the Zhuang people of China's Gunaxi province, a unique discipline that has three people sharing the same "shoes", which requires perfect coordination and concentration.

Board shoe racing can be traced back to the Ming Dynasty, when legend has it that a famous heroine of the Xhuang people used it as a way to train soldiers against invading Japanese pirates.

The legendary Mrs. Wa used long pieces of wood to teach the men to march together in perfect synchronization, which greatly improved their combat qualities and boosted their fighting spirit, helping them repel the invaders.

The traditional sport has been passed on from generation to generation since then.

The chained oak of Oakmanor

Staffordshire: If one passes by the county of Staffordshire, in central UK, a mysterious and rather eerie attraction could be seen – an old oak tree with branches shackled in heavy metal chains tied to a creepy local legend.

It is said that one day during the 1830s, when the Earl of Shrewsbury was returning home, a beggar woman stopped his carriage and asked him if he could spare a coin or two. The Earl cruelly dismissed her and the woman allegedly cursed him to lose a member of his family whenever a branch fell off the oak tree on the side of the road.

That same night, a storm brewed up and one of the branches of the oak fell and a member of the Earl's family died, which scared the noble.

To prevent other tragedies, he ordered his servants to wrap metal chains around the branches to stop any more from falling off. Since then the old oak tree is found wrapped in metal chains.

Include Kodavas in ST list of Constitution: CNC

Delegation meets Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das One-man Commission

Madikeri, June 27- Members of Codava National Council (CNC) led by its President Nandineravanda U. Nachappa recently met the One-man Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission, which was formed to look into the demands for increasing the reservations percentage to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST).

The meeting took place at Yavanika, the One-man Commission's office on Nrupathunga Road in Bengaluru. Nachappa presented a memorandum explaining the need for the inclusion of Kodavas in the ST list of the Constitution and apprised him about the tribal ancestry and indigenous tribal traits.

Nagamohan Das was told about the need and necessity of statutory protection to preserve the Kodava culture, language, folkloric identity, their age-old hereditary piece of untitled lands, besides their historical continuity. Also the Commission's attention was drawn regarding 'sabotaging' the genealogical studies being carried out to include Kodavas in the list of ST communities. The studies are being carried out by KSTRI (Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute), Mysuru.

"The ongoing ethnography study of Kodava tribalism is in a diabolic 'Etic' approach. We have requested the Commission to direct the KSTRI Mysuru to apply 'Emic' approach. We further urged that on the basis of the parameters laid down by Justice Lokur Committee Report, the ethnographic study should be carried out. In this regard the title of the schedule should be "Kulashashtra Adhyayana" or "Ethnographic" study but KSTRI has titled it 'Kodagu Jilleyallina Kodava Samudayada Arthika-Saamaajika Adhyayana' (a socio-economic study of Kodavas)," Nachappa said.

There is a clear cut order issued by the Government to conduct an exclusive Ethnographic study. KSTRI has carried out a major portion of socio-economic study and created fake economic status. "The KSTRI neither collected authentic documents nor produced proper income and expenditure sources but collected only verbal statements, marginalising the real ethnographic issue," Nachappa claimed.

"The KSTRI created a fake exaggerated version with prejudiced mindset which is not acceptable to us. We want the real ethnographic study to explore and establish true tribal ethnicity," Nachappa told Justice Nagamohan Das.

Almanda Jai, Pattamada Kusha, Pattamada Ashok and others were present.

Rangayana invites applications for Diploma in Theatre

Mysuru, June 27- Mysuru's theatre repertory Rangayana has invited applications from interested students for admission to its one-year Diploma course in theatre training. Applicants must have passed II PUC or its equivalent exam and should be in the age group of 18 to 23 years.

The selected students will be provided boarding by Rangayana and paid a monthly stipend of Rs.3,000. Also they will be eligible for getting food allowance of Rs. 2,000 per month.

Interested students can download the application form from the Rangayana website and submit the same either by post or in person to Rangayana Office by 5.30 pm on July 10. For more details, call Ph: 0821-2512639 or Mob: 94489-38661 or 99166-00027

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Nate: ***Why was school easier for cave people?***

Kate: ***Why?***

Nate: ***Because there was no history to study!***

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 75.63
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 93.31
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.59
1 Euro	= Rs. 84.84

VOICE OF THE READER

Control stray dogs
menace on city streets

Sir,

I am a resident of Vani Vilas Layout near Abhishek Circle, Hebbal. I have been living in this area since 10 years and I have noticed that the number of stray dogs has increased considerably. It has almost become impossible to walk on any street without being chased by these dogs.

Due to these stray dogs one has to walk in fear. In the past few months, I have seen many people writing letters to 'Star of Mysore' regarding the stray dogs menace which suggests that a lot of people in Mysuru are facing this problem.

I request the authorities concerned to immediately take necessary action in this regard.

— **Naveen Gowda**
Hebbal
26.6.2020

DC asks contacts of persons
infected with COVID to register

Mysuru, June 27- A person residing at a house behind the Military Quarters in Hebbal has been tested positive for COVID on June 23. As the person had roamed about in the locality for purchase of essentials between June 18 and 23, the District Administration has asked all those people who were in contact with the person for the past 15 days to report and register themselves with the DC Control Room No.821-2423800 or call Helpline 1077, as a health and safety measure, according to a press release from the Mysuru DC.

Also those who have visited Shafia Clinic on Ashoka Road near St. Philomena's Church, for treatment between June 10 and 24, will have to register themselves as contacts of the person tested positive, over Ph: 1077 or 0821-2423200, the release added.

RLHP distributes grocery kits,
masks, sanitisers to slum children

Mysuru, June 27 (RKB&KS)- City's Rural Literacy and Health Programme (RLHP) organisation on Thursday distributed grocery kits, face masks and sanitisers to the children living in slums.

The grocery kits and other items were distributed by District Child Protection Officer Dr. Diwakar to more than 30 children at a programme organised by RLHP Child Helpline-1098.

Each grocery kit consisted of rice, dal, cooking oil, rava, soap, toothpaste, sambar powder, tea powder, sugar, turmeric powder, salt and other essential items.

RLHP Director Saraswathi and others were present at the event.

Appointed
as Hunsur CMC Commissioner

Hunsur, June 27 (KK&DM)- Senior Officer Vani V. Alva has been appointed as the new Commissioner of Hunsur City Municipal Council (CMC). She replaces Shivappa Nayaka, who has been transferred.

Vani, who is currently serving as Municipal Officer at Someshwara Town Municipal Council in Dakshina Kannada district, had served as Hunsur CMC Commissioner for a short period of two-and-a-half months during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Now, the new posting would be her second stint of service in Hunsur.

CESC public contact meet in Nanjangud on June 29

Mysuru, June 27- The Nanjangud Sub-Division of CESC (Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Company) will be conducting a public contact programme at the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Nanjangud Sub-Division, at 11am on June 29.

Power consumers coming under Nanjangud Sub-Divisions 1 and 2 can attend and seek solutions for their problems, according to a press release.

Plant fruit and flower saplings in Parks, Highways

- MP chairs Mysuru District Development Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee meeting
- Asks Karnataka Slum Development Board officials to expedite Group Housing Project

Mysuru, June 27 (RK&DM)- Stating that nurturing is more important than the number in the planting of saplings, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha said that the Forest Department officials should concentrate more on saving our ecology and environment by planting of fruit-bearing and flowering plants in Parks and also along the Highways and other roads.

He was presiding over the Mysuru District Development Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee meeting at Chamundeshwari Auditorium in Regional Commissioner's Office here yesterday morning, during which he reviewed the progress of Centrally-funded projects in his Lok Sabha Constituency.

Pointing out that the National Highways Department has planted neem and such other useful trees in over 45-Km of the Outer Ring Road in the city, Simha said that the Forest Department officials must take measures for planting fruit, flower and other useful trees along all the roads that lead to and from the city.

Noting that it is important to nurture saplings once planted, he said that CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds can be utilised for purchase and installation of tree guards.

Man-animal conflict

Referring to man-animal conflicts in Tribal Hamlets across Mysuru and Kodagu Districts, the MP directed the Forest Department officials for taking urgent steps such as digging up of trenches, erection of Railway track barricades and such other works in order to prevent loss of human lives and farm produce in villages, especially those bordering the forests, out of Central funds.

Nirantara Jyothi scheme

Referring to electrification of Tribal Hamlets in Mysuru District, Simha said that a total of 7,784 dwellings have been identified in Tribal Hamlets for power connection under 'Nirantara Jyothi' scheme and CESC officials should take measures to provide power connection to them.

CESC Superintending Engineer Munigopalraju said that the Department has already given power connection to 448 tribal houses under 'Sowbhagya' scheme and the tender for Line Separation Project would soon be invited.

Group Houses

Commenting on Housing projects, the MP wanted to know why the construction of 2,400 Group Houses in K.R. Assembly segment was unnecessarily getting delayed.

Pointing out that this Group Housing Project is a Centrally-funded one, he said that the Project is pending since 2018. He asked the Karnataka Slum Development Board officials to expedite the project as any further delay will lead to cost escalation.

Stating that it has come to his notice that most houses constructed under various JnNURM schemes had unauthorised occupants, especially in Ekalavyanagar, Kamanakerehundi and Amriteshwara Layout, he said that the Slum Board officials must launch a drive to drive out unauthorised occupants and handover the houses to the actual beneficiaries.

He also asked the officials to report to him if any people's representative came in their way.

Taking exception to some Legislators inaugurating Centrally-funded projects, Simha said that the officials should make it a point to invite the MP for the inauguration and the Legislators should only preside.

Revenue Adalats

Calling for mandatory holding of Revenue Adalats every month, he said that the authorities must involve the MP in the execution of all MNREGA works.

Referring to the Under-Ground (UG) power cable laying works taken up by the MCC, he said that there are complaints that Works Committee members were unnecessarily harassing the Contractors and this should stop at once.

He also cautioned that the MCC must be wary of possible double billing in all the works executed by it.

The MP urged the civic body to ensure proper filling up of all trenches dug for laying UG cables, in order to prevent any possible injuries to pedestrians or motorists.

Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, MLAs B. Harshavardhan and H.P. Manjunath, ZP President Parimala Shyam, Vice-President Mangala Somashekar, CESC SE Munigopalraju and a host of other district officials attended the meeting.

Enrol for Computer Training

Mysuru, June 27- The Rashtriya Computer Saksharatha Samithi (RCSS) has invited applications for various computer training programmes during the academic year 2020-21.

Certified faculties will deliver the programme on computer fundamentals, C, C++, hardware and networking, tally, Kannada nudi typing and more.

All category candidates in the age group of 18-35 years can attend. Special batches are also available for housewives and professionals.

Interested may register their names before June 30 at #665, 1st floor, Nrupatunga Road, Kuvempunagar.

Candidates should compulsory use face mask and sanitiser at the time of registration and also maintain social distance.

They can also register through online. For details, contact Phone: 0821-2560268 or Mob: 93802-31665.

Calling construction workers

Mysuru, June 27- The Labour Department has invited applications from construction workers and other labourers, who have not yet received the Government's one-time relief of Rs.5,000.

The Labour Department had released the relief money to the workers whose details were found in the Labour Welfare Board. Now, the Department, in an initiative to cover all other workers who are yet to get the relief, has invited applications for the same.

Those construction workers and other labourers who are yet to get Rs.5,000 relief, may apply directly to the Department Office or through Labour Unions before June 30, according to a press release.

Chamarajanagar and Kodagu SPs among 13 IPS Officers transferred

Bengaluru, June 27- In a major reshuffle of top-level Police Officers, the State Government yesterday transferred 13 IPS Officers, including Police Commissioners of Belagavi and Mangaluru.

P.S. Harsha, who was serving as Mangaluru Police Commissioner, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner of Information and Public Relations Department at Bengaluru, while B.S. Lokesh Kumar, who was serving as Belagavi Police Commissioner, has been transferred and posted as DIGP, ISD (Internal Security Division), Bengaluru. P.S. Harsha is replaced by Vikash Kumar Vlikash as Mangaluru City Police Commissioner while Dr. K. Thiyagarajan replaces Lokesh Kumar as Belagavi City Police Commissioner.

Dr. Suman Pennekar *H.D. Anandkumar* *Divya Sara Thomas*

In other transfers at the IGP level, Seemanth Kumar Singh, who was serving as IGP, Administration at Bengaluru and K.V. Sharath Chandra who was serving as IGP, Central Range, Bengaluru have swapped posting. Chamarajanagar SP H.D. Anandkumar has been transferred and posted as SP, ISD in Bengaluru. He has been replaced by Divya Sara Thomas, a 2013 batch IPS Officer. Kodagu SP Dr. Suman D. Pennekar has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner of Police, City Armed Reserve headquarters, Bengaluru. She is replaced by Kshama Mishra, a 2016 batch IPS Officer, who was serving as Superintendent of Police, CID, in Bengaluru.

New Kodagu SP Kshama Mishra's three siblings have cracked Civil Service Exams

New Delhi, June 27 (Agencies)- Kshama Mishra, a 2016 batch IPS Officer of Karnataka cadre, who is the new Kodagu SP, hails from Pratapgarh in Uttar Pradesh. Kshama is among the four children of Anil Mishra, who worked as Manager in a Regional Rural Bank and Krishna Mishra couple.

The family lived in a two-room house at Pratapgarh. Interestingly, all the four children of Anil Mishra have cracked the Civil Services Exam (CSE). The siblings of the family not only cleared the CSE but also went on to become IAS and IPS Officers.

While growing up, the four siblings shared a normal relationship and they were all good in academics too. Later, the decision came together to join the prestigious civil services. Kshama's elder brother Yogesh became the first of the four siblings to crack the CSE in 2013 while her sister Madhvi cracked the exam in 2014 and another brother Lokesh cleared the CSE in 2015. Kshama Mishra herself became an IPS Officer in 2016. Yogesh's success worked as a catalyst for the other three. He got selected in the CSE 2013 in the reserve list. All inspired by her brother's success and with his help, Madhvi next cleared the CSE in 2014.

Kshama Mishra

Lokesh found place in reserve list, gave it another shot. He had also found his name in the reserve list in CSE 2014. However, he was confident of himself and decided to give it another shot. Lokesh had earlier completed engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D). He cracked the CSE in 2015.

Success is product of hard work and sacrifice, said Kshama. Her husband, who is in Provincial Civil Service, inspired her to chase her dream and supported her along the way. She's a post-graduate in Hindi Literature and chose the same as her optional. After the results were out, Kshama had said, "Once my husband came to know that I am interested in civil services he gave me the opportunity to pursue it.

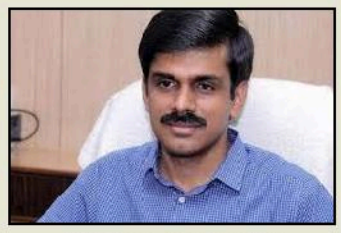
Talking about the siblings' extraordinary success, Kshama had said, "We all care and believe in each other. This success is a product of consistency, hard-work and sacrifice. We have not inherited it."

Kodagu SP Kshama Mishra with her siblings. Picture below shows the family photo in her younger days.

13 COVID-19 positive cases in Mysuru today; total 238

- **City medical student among those contracted virus**
- **Kodagu reports a total of 40 cases; Chamarajanagar 20**

Mysuru, June 27 (RK&BCT)- Mysuru reported 13 COVID-19 positive cases today (June 27) taking the total positive cases to 238. Till yesterday, the cumulative number of patients getting discharged stood at 128. In today's cases, five are females and the rest are men.



Abhiram G. Sankar

The positive cases, however, have to be confirmed by Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar in his daily evening media bulletin. In the list of today's positive cases, there is a medical student and three Policemen. While two positive cases are under investigation, one person is a returnee from Bangkok. Six are primary and secondary contacts of the patients who had contracted the disease earlier.

Yesterday, five persons including a one-year-old baby tested positive for COVID-19. Out of five cases, two persons have travel history of inter-State (Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu) and two patients inter-District (Chamarajanagar and Mandya). Another is a case of Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI).

A doctor of a private clinic in Mysuru has also tested positive yesterday. The doctor is from Shafia Clinic on Ashoka Road. Deputy Commissioner Abhiram Sankar has appealed to the people who have visited the clinic from June 10 to June 24 to register themselves by calling: 1077 or 0821-2423200.

Kodagu cases

Four more COVID-19 positive cases have been reported from Kodagu today taking the total number to 40. A 33-year-old who has travel history from Bengaluru and directly admitted to Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri, a 35-year-old healthcare worker in Murnad, a 14-year-old who is a primary contact of positive case from Shirangala in Somwarpet Taluk tested positive today.

This apart, an 8-year-old who is a primary contact of positive case from Hulase in Kushalnagar contracted the disease. With the latest cases, the total number of positive cases has risen to 40. Three persons have been discharged and there are 37 active cases. 19 areas have been declared as Containment Zones.

Yesterday, six fresh COVID-19 cases were reported in Kodagu. A family of three comprising husband, wife and a two-year-old child have tested positive. The family had a travel history to Bengaluru. After their return to the district, they stayed at Hundi and Nelyahudikeri.

Other cases were a 24-year-old person from Shanivarasanthe in Somwarpet taluk who had returned from Pune, a 23-year-old person from Kondangeri of Virajpet taluk who had a travel history to Sharjah and a 46-year-old person from Hulase in Kushalnagar who had returned from Bengaluru.

Chamarajanagar

In Chamarajanagar, 11 new positive cases were reported yesterday including a 32-year-old woman Police Constable. Of the cases, nine cases have been reported from Gundlupet and one each from Chamarajanagar and Kollegal have been reported. Of them, seven are men and four are women. The total cases in Chamarajanagar that once was a green zone for a long time has risen to 20.

Free Online Sugama Sangeetha Camp

Mysuru, June 27- Meru Kala Samooha, Mysuru, will be conducting a 10-day Online Sugama Sangeetha Camp from June 29. In this Online Camp, those who know to sing will be taught devotional songs, light music, folk songs, traditional songs, sobane pada, tatvapada, patriotic songs, Hindi bhajans, old Hindi and Kannada film songs. For details, contact Mob: 91411-19651.

Financial aid for SC/ST street vendor women

Mysuru, June 27- The Karnataka State Women Development Corporation has invited applications from poor SC/ST women street vendors for availing Rs.10,000 financial assistance (2019-20) under 'Samruddhi' scheme.

The eligible SC/ST street vendor women, aged between 18 and 60 years, can collect the prescribed application form from the CDPO (Child Development Project Officer) Office and submit the same along with necessary documents before July 10.

For more details, contact Ph: 0821-2495432 or 2498031, according to a press release.

'Pandavapura Sugar Factory will start crushing in a month'

Sugar baron Murugesh Nirani interacts with city scribes

Mysuru, June 27 (MTY&DM)- Declaring that the Pandavapura Sugar Factory (PSSK-Pandavapura Sahakara Sakkare Karkhane) that he has recently taken on a 40-year lease, will be started in a month, Chairman of Bagalkot District based Nirani Sugars Group and BJP MLA from Bilgi, Murugesh Nirani, who is also a former Minister, said that he was determined to take the factory to its past glory.

He was speaking at an interaction meet organised by Mysuru District Journalists Association (MDJA) at Patrakarthara Bhavan here this morning.

Reflecting on his past, Nirani said he started a Sugar Factory in Bagalkot district 25 years ago, seeing the plight of sugarcane growers of the region. Stating that there was only Godavari Sugar Factory in the region then for crushing sugarcane, he said he started his own sugar factory as a challenge and now his Group owns seven Sugar Mills.

"I started my first Sugar Factory with a crushing capacity of just 500 tonnes per day. But now my Group is collectively crushing 50,000 tonnes of sugarcane per day. The Mills also have Power

Co-generation Plants, Ethanol and CNG Production Units. With the passage of time and the success achieved in the Sugar Industry, the Group has expanded into other sectors such as Cement, Medical care, Hospitality and Education," he said.

Claiming that his Group of Sugar Companies is the biggest producer of Sugar and Ethanol in South India, Nirani said that he has plans to supply Ethanol to the Aviation Industry as well in the coming days as it is used for Air Turbine fuel.

Coming back to PSSK, Nirani said that the machines in the factory are getting rusted mainly because of lack of maintenance. "It will take at least two years to replace all these old machineries with the latest ones. I do not want to cause further delay in crushing spending time on replacement as this would cause a lot of hardship for the growers of the region. As such I have decided to start crushing in right earnest by best using the available machinery in the factory and to take up replacement of machinery in a phased manner," the Sugar baron said.

Noting that the decades old PSSK has a historical significance too as it was started during the times of the erstwhile Mysore Maharajas, he said that Krishnaraja Wadiyar is his role model and he will work hard towards fulfilling the vision that the Maharaja had for the Mill.

Replying to a query on the pending wages of the Factory employees, Nirani said that he has learnt that there were 130 employees in the Mill when it as shut a couple of years ago and they have not been paid wages. Assuring that he will clear the pending wages within a day of the official signing of the lease contract, Nirani said that there is no scope for politics in the running of the Mill.

"Though I belong to the BJP politically, I am an entrepreneur first with no political attachments when it comes to running Factories and other commercial establishments. And there will be no scope for party or caste politics in the running of the Mill," he maintained.

He further said that no worker, who was serving in the factory, will be retrenched and all of them will be re-employed.

MDJA President C.K. Mahendra, General Secretary K.J. Lokesh Babu and Vice-President (City) M. Subramanya were present at the interaction meet.

Cabinet approves Pandavapura Sugar Factory lease to Nirani Sugars

Bengaluru, June 27- The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved the 40-year lease of Pandavapura Sugar Factory (PSSK-Pandavapura Sahakara Sakkare Karkhane) to Bagalkot district based Nirani Sugars, owned by Bilgi BJP MLA and former Minister Murugesh Nirani.

Announcing this after a Cabinet meeting, Law Minster J.C. Madhuswamy said that following an appeal by the sugar factory share holders, the Government had floated global tenders for running the factory. All the tenders received within the set deadline were opened on June 5, when Nirani Sugars, which was found to be the highest bidder with Rs. 405 crore, was awarded the contract for running the Sugar Mill on Lease, Rehabilitate, Operate and Transfer basis for a 40 -year period, he said. From now on, everything rests with Nirani Sugar Company on running the Pandavapura Sugar Mill, he added.

Nirani meets CM and Sugar Minister

Soon after the Cabinet approved the 40-year lease of

PSSK to Nirani Sugar Company, the Company Chairman Murugesh Nirani met Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa at the latter's 'Cauvery' residence in Bengaluru and expressed his gratitude. Later, Nirani met Sugar and Labour Minister Shivaram Hebbar. Thereafter, he visited Adichunchanagiri Mutt at Chikkaballapur and sought the blessings of Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji.

Meanwhile, at Pandavapura in Mandya District, several farmer leaders and sugarcane growers have welcomed the handing over of PSSK Sugar Mill to Nirani Sugars. The Factory workers and office-bearers of the Labour Union too have welcomed the decision, it is learnt.

SSLC: 38,886 students write Maths exam in Mysuru today

Mysuru, June 27 (MTY& BNR)- Out of the 39,297 SSLC students, 38,886 students wrote Mathematics exam and 411 remained absent at 139 centres in the district today.

Among the 274 students from other districts, who had registered to write exam in Mysuru, one remained absent. A total of 52 students came from Containment Zones in the district for whom separate arrangements were made to write exam.

A total of 55 buses were used for the students transportation.

In all, 17 students were found with cough and fever symptoms when they were thermal screened before they were allowed inside the exam hall and they were made to write exams separately. Apart from that, the exams were conducted with no confusions and the next exam is on Monday

Cauvery Sugar Clinic launched

Cauvery Heart & Multi-Speciality Hospital, Siddarthanagar, Mysuru, launched 'Cauvery Sugar Clinic' in city recently. The Sugar Clinic, inaugurated by Dr. S.P. Adarsh, Senior Consultant Diabetologist, will function every Wednesday and Saturday from 9 am to 12 noon. On the occasion, "Cauvery Sugar Tests Special Packages" brochure for the general public was released by Hospital Chairman Dr. G.R. Chandrashekar, Managing Director Dr. Sarala Chandrashekar, Consultants and Hospital Staff.

Work on Kempegowda's giant statue takes off in Bengaluru

Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa performing bhoomi puja for the construction of Kempegowda's bronze statue at the Bengaluru Airport in Devanahalli this morning as former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji, Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji and Sri Siddalingapura Swamiji look on.

Bengaluru, June 27 (KMS & BCT)- On the occasion of the 511th birth anniversary of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, the Founder of 'Bendakalooru' aka Bengaluru, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa this morning laid the foundation stone for the construction of Nadaprabhu's mammoth 108-feet bronze statue at the Bengaluru Airport in Devanahalli named as Kempegowda International Airport. It is the country's third busiest airport in this tech city.

The 23-acre central park that will be built as a tribute to the Founder of new Bengaluru will transform into a spectacular place of visit, the CM said. In view of COVID-19 pandemic, the bhoomi puja was organised in a meaningful way with very few people by ensuring physical distancing and without any violations. The CM also unveiled the miniature model of the Kempegowda Statue. The programme was webcast on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, who is also the Chairman of Kempegowda Development Authority, Revenue Minister R. Ashoka and others were present on the occasion.

Adichunchanagiri Mutt Seer Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji, Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji and Siddaganga Mutt Seer Sri Siddalingapura Swamiji graced the event.

The statue has been planned to be built between two runways for it to be seen by national and international commuters who can learn about the person who built Bengaluru. In Karnataka, the Kempegowda statue is slated to be the tallest one and will tower over the Gommateshwara Statue at Shravanabelagola in Hassan which stands at 57 feet.

The mega project has been designed by the Infrastructure Development Corporation (Karnataka) Limited (iDeCK), while noted sculptor Ram Sutar will install the statue. Sutar was the main sculptor of the 597 feet Statue of Unity — Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel — in Gujarat and the Gandhi Statue located between Vidhana Soudha and Vikasa Soudha.

Born on June 27, 1510 at Magadi in Bengaluru's s northwest suburb, Kempegowda built four towers in the North, South, East and West of the garden city, with a view to limiting its growth up to a point at 3,000-feet above the sea level. He also developed water bodies, including lakes and tanks for its supply to its people throughout the year.

Nadaprabhu's birthday celebration is meant to educate the people on the Founder's grand vision, planning and building a futuristic city. "Kempegowda's development works, including building the city's infrastructure during his regime inspires us even after 500 years," said Dr. Ashwath Narayan.

The State Government will also develop Kempapura village in Magadi taluk, where Kempegowda's tomb is present, as a historical destination, he said adding that it will be an all-season tourist centre.

Kempegowda Development Authority which is managing the restoration and protection of Kempegowda's monuments in the State will oversee the statue's construction. The statue has been a long-pending demand of the people of Karnataka, the Dy.CM asserted.

Vokkaligara Sangha celebrates Kempegowda Jayanti in Mysuru

Kempegowda's 511th Jayanti was also celebrated at Mysuru-Chamarajanagar Vokkaligara Sangha premises by offering floral tributes to the portrait of Nadaprabhu. Director and former Corporator Prashanth Gowda, Hon. President Kumar Gowda, General Secretary Boregowda, Director Ravikumar, leaders Sathish Gowda, Kumar and others were present.

Health infrastructure

(Continued from page 1)

New Testing Centre

At present, in Mysuru, COVID-19 tests are conducted at the state-of-the-art Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) located at the Department of Microbiology in Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (K.R. Hospital). Also, tests are being conducted inside PARAKH, a mobile testing facility donated by Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL).

To ease the pressure on these facilities where over 600 tests are daily conducted, testing facility or a laboratory will be set up at Government Ayurveda and Panchakarma Hospital on KRS Road in front of PKTB Hospital. "CFTRI has come forward to set up an advanced laboratory here and we just have to provide them space," Abhiram Sankar revealed.

Tulsidas Hospital

As part of increasing treatment facilities to more and more COVID-19 patients in case the number of patients rise, the District Administration has also planned to use the Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Maternity Hospital that is newly built on Jhansi Rani Lakshmibai (JLB) Road in city after demolishing the old building.

The Hospital, once completed will be treated as a second COVID-19 Hospital in Mysuru. Construction works of the Hospital is going on in full pace and this morning, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha inspected the Hospital premises and took stock of the constriction works.

Minor works pending: MP

The old Tulsidas Hospital has been demolished and the new facility is being built at a cost of Rs. 19.5 crore under National Health Mission. The actual construction works started in 2018 and the MP told reporters that only minor works were pending and the Hospital will be ready in the next one-and-a-half months.

Simha interacted with Health and Family Welfare Department officials and urged them to expedite the works. The new Hospital has advanced sections like NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) and MICU (Medical Intensive Care Unit).

Objection to MP's visit

During the inspection today, a few supporters of Krishnaraja MLA S.A. Ramdas took objection to the MP's visit as the local MLA (Ramdas) was not invited to the inspection. The 'Suraksha Committee' comprising Corporators told Simha that as per protocol, the MLA should have been invited.

Pratap Simha, however, told the Committee members that they should not play politics and yesterday, Health Officials were told to inform Ramdas and his Secretary about the inspection and there was a communication gap. The MP later continued his inspection.

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